

Petworth Orchestra Rises From Humble Birth to Now Among the City's Best

Community Musicians Directed By Bucklin, Wizard of the Baton

Petworth's orchestra, which is made up of young men residing in this suburb of Washington, originally consisted of four pieces. From time to time other instruments were added, until it reached a membership of nine pieces, piano, first and second violins, cornet, flute, cello, clarinet, saxophone and drums.

It was assembled mainly for the purpose of furnishing music for various community organizations, such as the citizens' association, woman's club, community dances, and other affairs. The orchestra made its first appearance at the community carnival in September, since which time it has played for the community center dances every Friday evening, and has given several recitals.

The training has enabled several members to join professional and larger amateur bodies, and the present orchestra is made up of Irving Williams Bucklin and Frank E. Yilek, violins; Roy L. Barrows, piano; Gilbert A. Monck, cornet; Ralph S. Fox, drums; and Elmer W. Holland, saxophone. Each member of the orchestra has played and is affiliated with some of the local bands and orchestras, and each member is capable of doubling on at least one other instrument.

The organization is especially fortunate in having Irving Williams Bucklin, of Providence, R. I., whose wide musical career and theatrical experience has been of valuable assistance. Mr. Bucklin is a contralto soloist, and a female impersonator, and was formerly associated with the Stellar Grand Opera Co.

The Petworth orchestra was organized and is being conducted by Elmer W. Holland, of this city, whose experience as a musical conductor and choir director has enabled him to develop a musical sextette of which Petworth community is quite proud.

THE "beginnings" of a Petworth orchestra, with six players residing in Petworth, who are proving a boon to the community. From left to right: Standing, Irving Williams Bucklin, Roy L. Barrows, Gilbert A. Monck, Frank E. Yilek. Sitting, Elmer W. Holland, conductor, and Ralph S. Fox.



FROM AIRPLANES TO PHONOGRAPHS

From aeroplanes to phonographs is the "way to peace" transition of the second largest manufacturing plant in Toronto, Canada. The plant of the Canadian Aeroplanes Ltd., which was built in 1917 for the production of aircraft, has been purchased by the Columbia Graphophone Company for the manufacture of Columbia Gramophones and records.

ground, and consists of eight large permanent steel and concrete buildings, and three smaller frame buildings, containing a total of more than 235,000 square feet of factory space, together with railroad sidings which run directly into the largest structure.

The purchase was made, according to Columbia Graphophone Company officials, to take care of the rapidly expanding demand in Canada for their product. They say that Canadians are great music lovers, and that the support of the trade in Canada has made this big development possible.

During the war this plant employed more than two thousand men and women in the manufacture of aeroplanes. Its peace time activities of manufacturing Columbia Gramophones and records will give employment to at least an equal number.

LITTLE RUSS GIRL WEEPS FOR HER KIN

"Who is this little person," writes Evelyn Heneker, in the New York Morning Telegraph, "for all the world like a mischievous kitten, with the most alert gray-green eyes and tiny provocative features, framed by a rebellious mass of copper hair."

"It is little Nina Tarasova, who has come to America, bringing with her the spirit of Russia, not only as a singer of the national folk song, but inadvertently in the expression of her own personality."

PLAN PHONOGRAPHS IN CAL. SCHOOLS

Of nation-wide importance is the plan of the California state board of education to employ phonographs in all the schools, for the purpose of teaching music.

According to Dr. Margaret S. McNaught, State commissioner of elementary schools, it is the hope of the authorities to have installed before long a phonograph in every school in California, no matter how remote its location.

"In no other way," says Dr. McNaught, "would it be possible to make the study of music so universal—even democratic—as can be accomplished by the use of the phonograph, for with this invention even the latest in grand opera can be brought to the door of the most distant school room."

"We believe, too, that the phonograph will be an agency for breaking down the barriers in music which exist today between the city boys and girls and their country cousins."

In connection with the installation of the instruments in the Golden State schools, it is planned to make careful selection of the records to be used, and distribute them by a method similar to the movie exchange. This will make it easy for even the smallest and poorest-equipped school to keep abreast of the growth of the musical art.

Dr. McNaught believes the time may come when it will be necessary to create a board of censorship for the purpose of passing on records; that is, if the tendency in selection should be too much toward "jazz" and other light music. For the present, however, the choice of proper material will be left largely to the judgment of the teachers and the county libraries which will assist in putting the plan into effect.

NEW YORK, Nov. 9.—The American Newspaper Publishers' Association will meet here Wednesday to consider the "acute newspaper situation," Frank P. Glass, president, in his statement calling the meeting, said the Pulp and Paper Manufacturers' Association was to meet at the same time.

WELL-FED HUSBANDS BAND.
NEW YORK, Nov. 9.—"Wait a minute!" is required for membership in the "Well-Fed Husbands Club," which applied for charter yesterday. "If we can't drink, we can eat," is the club's platform.

PREDICTS INCREASE IN MUSIC INTEREST

Of the many signs that music has become a social force in America and hence a public question of importance, one of the most striking is an editorial in the latest issue of The Nation entitled, "Music Versus Drink." The article reviews briefly the increase in musical interest, for which it gives most credit to the women of the country, takes the men to task a little for neglecting the benefits they could derive from more frequent contact with good music, and makes a confident prophecy that the ban on liquor will open the eyes of the male, or rather his ears, to what he has been missing.

"Much has been said about the effect of prohibition in increasing the vogue of the movies," the editorial begins; "but my should not high-class entertainments like concerts, benefit by this change as well as the picture show? Men, with very few exceptions, have never become acclimated in concert halls. Most of them are like a distinguished novelist who, when asked what he thought of music, replied: 'Oh! I see no harm in it.'"

Without the support of the women, declares the writer, even such favorites as Paderewski, Kreisler, Novak, and Grainger would play to empty benches, and musical activities of the exception of song-and-girl shows, and possibly the opera, would have languished steadily instead of advancing space. The 200,000 women who comprise the membership of the musical clubs he believes responsible for making possible the appearance of singers and players in all but the largest cities.

75 RETIRED MUSIC TEACHERS IN HOME

Theodore Presser Head of Institution in Philadelphia For Musicians.

The motto "One good turn deserves another" has been fully carried out in the life of Theodore Presser, musician, music publisher, educator, and philanthropist. Since it was through musicians that Mr. Presser acquired his large fortune, he decided that it was only just that musicians should get some return from him. One of the big results of this decision is the Presser Home for Retired Music Teachers, whose present building, just completed, is one of the show places of Philadelphia's suburban district.

The property of the Presser Home for Retired Music Teachers represents an investment of about a quarter of a million dollars. Surrounded by trees and delightful gardens, with spacious front and back porches, it affords a most pleasing sight. The entire building is marked by comfort, convenience, and luxury. The bedrooms are large and sunny, and the equipments of kitchen and laundry are thoroughly modern and hygienic.

LEFT-HANDED MUSIC ASKED BY SOLDIER

The following letter from a musically inclined British ex-soldier to the "Ex-Service Man" last week came to the attention of the Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men:

"Now" (he says), "although I can practically make my left arm do the work of two, the old piano still has me beaten. Even the dear old 'Blue-bells of Scotland' is too much for me. It is still possible to play parts of melodies and even get in a bit of bass with a little cuteness but there is always something missing. Personally, I am not clever enough to provide that 'something.' Others might. The left and right hands are wanted for the correct interpretation of a piece, but surely some enterprising music-writer could provide all the melody and harmony required for the one-handed pianist? There are thousands of men in England who would appreciate music written for one hand."

KREISLER DREW AUDIENCE OF GREAT MUSICIANS

The name and fame of Kreisler attracted to the premiere of "Apple Blossoms" such an audience of musicians as rarely is seen in a theater. There were orchestra conductors Josef Stransky, Walter Damrosch, Edgar Varese, Theodore Spiering, and singers, such as John McCormack, Sophie Brasau, Andres de Segura, Paul Reimers, Herbert Witherspoon. Pianist preest were Sergei Rachmaninoff, Ossip Gabrilowitch, Alexander Lammert, Franz Kneisel, Ysaie, Elman and Jascha Heifetz were among the violinists, and Kreisler himself, in a dark corner back of the stage.

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